



# WILDFIRE

Wildfires are uncontrolled forest fires, grassland fires, rangeland, or urban-interface fires which consume natural fuels and spread in response to the environment. Wildfires can be either a natural phenomenon or manmade. The frequency and severity of wildfires depends on both weather and human activity. Wildfires can occur any month in Maryland, but peak in the spring and fall. During these seasons, deciduous trees are bare, allowing sunlight and wind to reach the ground and dry any available fuels. The relative humidity of the air is also lower and, combined with a breeze, creates the conditions for wildfires to spread rapidly.



## HAS IT HAPPENED LOCALLY?

There is an estimated number of over 7,300 Wildfire events that have occurred in Howard County in the reviewed time period of 1995-2019.

## WHAT IS THE ONGOING RISK?

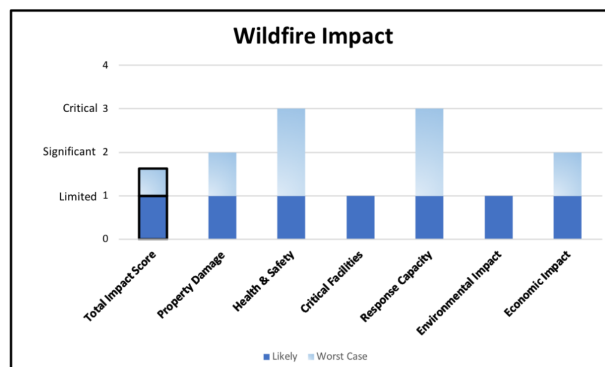
There is an expected 1-30% Chance of Annual Occurrence of a Wildfire in Howard County. In the most likely Wildfire scenario, the Total Impact is considered Limited. In the worst-case scenario, the Total Impact is considered Limited-Significant.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- The severity of Wildfires in Howard County has been historically very low, and the duration of wildfires has ranged from a matter of hours to several days.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- [Howard County Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control](#)
- [Ready.gov](#)



Wildfire Risk Profile				
	Risk Assessment Category	Likely Hazard Scenario	Worst-Case Hazard Scenario	Weight
LIKELIHOOD	Likelihood	2.5 Infrequent-Likely		50%
	Impact	1 Limited	1.6 Limited-Significant	40%
CONSEQUENCE	Warning Time	4 Short	4 Short	5%
	Duration	1 Short	2 Moderate	5%
TOTAL RISK SCORE		1.9	2.1	

